



ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING.

MAY 29th, 1912.

Mr. W. W. Froggatt, F.L.S., President, in the Chair.

Mr. MARCEL AUROUSSEAU, Sydney; Mr. WALTER H. GRACE, Sydney; Dr. FRANK HOWSON, M.A. (Oxon.), M.R.C.S., University of Sydney; and Dr. H. LEIGHTON KESTEVEN, Technical College, Sydney, were elected Ordinary Members of the Society.

The President announced that the Council had elected Dr. J. BURTON CLELAND to fill an extraordinary vacancy in the Council, due to the retirement of Mr. HENRY DEANE, M.A., F.L.S., whose official engagements now necessitated frequent absence from Sydney.

The President regretfully announced the recent death of the Rev. THOMAS BLACKBURN, B.A., of Adelaide, a Corresponding Member of the Society, and the oldest worker on the Coleoptera in Australia; also, at one time, one of the Hon. Secretaries of the Entomological Society of London. On the motion of Mr. H. J. Carter, seconded by Mr. G. A. Waterhouse, it was resolved that a letter of condolence should be sent to Mr. Blackburn's family.

The Donations and Exchanges received since the previous Monthly Meeting (24th April, 1912), amounting to 11 Vols., 69 Parts or Nos., 19 Bulletins, 3 Reports, 2 Maps, and 9 Pamphlets, received from 52 Societies, &c., and 2 Individuals, were laid upon the table.

NOTES AND EXHIBITS.

Mr. Steel exhibited specimens of the fleshy corolla-tubes of the Mohwa, *Bassia latifolia*, from India. These contain from 50 to 57% of their weight of sugar, which, in the specimens exhibited, consists of three-fifths dextrose and two-fifths levulose. They are dried like raisins or dates, and eaten in the same way. They have been proposed as a source of alcohol.

Mr. David G. Stead exhibited some aboriginal remains discovered in an immense deposit of oyster and cockle shells at Anderson's Creek or Broadwater Inlet, Macleay River. The remains were found near the bottom of the deposit, about five feet above present high-water level. The deposit is from three to five feet in depth, and carries a covering of about two feet of sand and alluvial soil; fully 5,000 tons of shell have been removed from it for oyster culture. The remains were, unfortunately, damaged by the pick before being observed. Mr. Stead also exhibited oyster shells, obtained from an extensive deposit on a crescent-sloped ridge on the farm of Mr. Wilbert Clegg, on the eastern bank of Warrell Creek, Nambucca River, about 15 miles from its entrance. The deposit is at least 150 yards in length, and from 20 to 30 feet wide, and 2 feet deep, and is covered with about 2 feet of stripping, consisting of decomposed vegetable matter and sand, and lies on a bottom of clay and gravel, about 20 feet above the high-water level of the Creek. It will be observed that many of the oysters are stunted in growth, and have originally adhered to mangrove "cobbler's pegs." No oyster growth exists at the present day within many miles in Warrell Creek. It may be stated that other and larger deposits exist in the vicinity, some of them lying fully half a mile east from the existing Creek. There is a tradition amongst the aborigines that, at one time, the Nambucca River debouched at Scott's Head, which lies between 2 and 3 miles N.E. from the deposits under reference.

Mr. E. Cheel exhibited a series of specimens of *Daldinia concentrica* Bolt., collected from living "River She-oak," *Casuarina Cunninghamiana* Miq., in the bed of Jellore Creek, at the foot of Mount Jellore. The specimens were quite soft when collected, and sections were cut to show the internal structure. The perfect specimens have shed a dense mass of nearly black spores. Old specimens were also collected from a decaying log at Upper Fern-tree Gully, Victoria, in February, 1908.

Mr. G. A. Waterhouse exhibited a coloured drawing of the hitherto unique type (♀) of *Cyclopides croites* Hewitson, from

Australia, in the British Museum. Also three specimens giving a definite locality for this rare species of butterfly. An examination of these specimens shows that the males are without a stigma on the forewing, and that the hind tibiæ are without middle spurs; these characters, combined with blunt tips of the antennæ, place the species in the genus *Mesodina* Meyrick. A male from Carnarvon, W.A., has the forewing much more pointed than in the female; the markings above are very similar, but the orange band of the hindwing is broader; beneath, the forewing is as in the female, but on the hindwing there is a brown spot in the cell, and a discal series of circular brown spots that are barely indicated in the drawing of the female. A pair from Pindar, W.A., in July, are both paler above, the orange band of the hindwing reduced in size, and the cilia more uniform in colour. Beneath, while the forewings agree very well with the Carnarvon specimen, the hindwings are pale yellow, with only faint traces of markings.

Dr. H. G. Chapman shewed some living larvæ of mosquitos in sea-water. On April 21st, he noticed the larvæ in deep holes in the rocks on the eastern side of Bradley's Head. The holes were awash at high tides, but were so deep that the larvæ were not washed out as they passed down to the sand at the bottom of the holes. On April 28th, the sample exhibited was collected. On May 6th, a mosquito hatched out, and was identified by the President as *Culex vigilar* Skuse. In order to be certain that the water was sea-water, it was analysed. Its specific gravity at 4°C. was 1.0273. It contained 4.486 parts of solid matter, 2.43 parts of chlorine, and 0.52 parts of sulphate per centum. Its freezing point was -2.33°C. These figures showed the water to be normal sea-water.

Mr. A. R. McCulloch gave notice of motion at the next Monthly Meeting—"That it is desirable to call a Special General Meeting of the Society, to discuss the advisableness of framing a Rule to fix a time-limit for the reading of any paper contributed by a Member."